AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the resulting composite.

3. (original) The mechanical fastening system of claim ~~1~~ 28 wherein the nonwoven web has a machine direction and a cross-machine direction, the ~~constituent fibers~~ direction of extension of the nonwoven web ~~are oriented~~ being ~~in~~ the machine direction of said nonwoven web.

4. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the cross machine direction.

5. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force with concomitant necking or narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

9. (original) The mechanical fastening system set forth in ~~of~~ claim ~~6~~ 28 wherein the nonwoven web ~~is formed of~~ comprises substantially continuous fibers.

10. (canceled).

11. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the cross machine direction.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled). The disposable absorbent article of claim 12 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an inelastic material.

14. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 12 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the resulting composite.

15. (canceled).

16. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been

stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the resulting composite.

17. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been produced by orienting the nonwoven web in the machine direction and necking the nonwoven web in the cross machine direction.

18. (canceled) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been produced by orienting the nonwoven web in the cross machine direction.

19. (canceled) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force without substantial necking or gathering of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

20. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force with concomitant necking or narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

21. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.

22-27. (previously canceled).

28. (New) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers, said web being extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, the web being in its extended configuration on the substrate; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the second fastening component.

29. (New) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 28 wherein the nonwoven web is generally free from substantial necking and gathering in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the web is extended.

30. (New) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 28 in combination with the article, said substrate being formed integrally with the article.

31. (New) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 28 wherein the substrate is substantially inelastic.

32. (New) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 29 wherein the substrate is substantially inelastic.

33. (New) An absorbent article for personal wear, the absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable inner layer for contact with the

wearer's skin, an outer layer in superposed relationship with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer, the article having a first end region and a second end region; and

a mechanical fastening system comprising at least one first fastening component disposed generally at the first end region of the article and at least one second fastening component disposed generally at the second end region of said article and adapted for releasable connection with the at least one first fastening component to secure the article on a wearer of said article, the at least one first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers, said web being extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, said web being in its extended configuration on the substrate, the at least one second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the at least one first fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the at least one second fastening component.

34. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 wherein the nonwoven web is generally free from substantial necking and gathering in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the web is extended.

35. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 in combination with the article wherein the substrate is formed integrally with the article.

36. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 wherein the substrate is substantially inelastic.

37. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 wherein the nonwoven web of the at least one first fastening component has a machine direction and a cross-machine direction, the direction in which the web is extended being the machine direction.

38. (New) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material free from attachment to any substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers, said web being extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, said web being in its extended configuration; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the second fastening component.

39. The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 38 in combination with the article, the first fastening component defining at least a portion of said article.